



Commander's Desk

Corps works to preserve our unique way of life

In an 1859 letter he wrote to his sister, Samuel Clemens said, "I may say that an American has not seen the United States until he has seen Mardi Gras in New Orleans." As I send this edition of my newsletter out, South Louisiana's Carnival season is underway. And being the second season since I assumed command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District, I must agree with Mr. Clemens.

As residents of South Louisiana, the men and women of the New Orleans District have deep roots in their communities. Every day, they work to help ensure that their communities will be around for many years to come. Whether it is our efforts to reduce the risks of riverine flooding and storm-surge damage or in working closely with our partners to find approaches to successfully protect and restore Louisiana's coastal lands, the work that we do is critical for the future of South Louisiana.

While Mardi Gras is certainly celebrated in many parts of the country, only in South Louisiana is it so engrained into the culture. Regardless of whether the revelry takes place in New Orleans,

Houma, or Mamou, Mardi Gras is a part of life, a commitment to a tradition that continues to grow stronger with each passing season.

I often say that the Corps being successful in its mission is critical to protecting and preserving the area, the people and a way of life that is exclusive to South Louisiana. While Mardi Gras is only one of the many traditions that make the culture in South Louisiana so unique, it serves as an annual reminder of what we are trying to protect. However, for these traditions to continue, they need strong communities.

The Corps is determined to do everything possible to ensure that Mr. Clemens' sentiments are as relevant tomorrow as they were 153 years ago. We understand the challenges facing us are great. We also know that the rewards of a successful mission are even greater.

Essayons!

Col. Ed Fleming

President's Budget

2013 President's Budget proposes funding for key New Orleans District projects

The President's proposed budget for the 2013 fiscal year has been released and includes \$4.731 billion in proposed funding for the Civil Works program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Approximately \$257 million of this proposed funding would support several New Orleans District projects, with a focus on operations and maintenance of important navigation channels, coastal ecosystem restoration and flood risk reduction.

As stated by the Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, "The fiscal year 2013 Civil Works budget for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reflects the Administration's priorities through targeted investments in the nation's infrastructure that fund the development, management, restoration, and protection of the Nation's water, wetlands, and related resources. The Budget also reflects the tough choices necessary to put the country on a fiscally sustainable path."

The Army Civil Works budget funds the planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of projects, and focuses on the highest performing projects and programs within three main Civil Works mission areas: commercial navigation, flood risk management, and aquatic ecosystem restoration.

In recognition of the importance of efficient waterborne transportation, the New Orleans District could

receive approximately \$145 million for Operations and Maintenance of navigation channels, which includes dredging and improvements to navigation in the area, if the budget is passed. To support restoration of important aquatic ecosystems, the proposed budget includes approximately \$26 million for the Louisiana Coastal Area, Ecosystem Restoration program to fund feasibility studies, Pre-construction Engineering and Design, and construction. In addition, the flood risk reduction project, Larose to Golden Meadow, could receive \$5 million for construction, and the Mississippi River and Tributaries system could receive approximately \$74 million.

The following New Orleans District projects have been proposed to receive funding in the FY2013 budget:

- Atchafalaya River and Bayous Chene, Boeuf & Black, La.;
- Barataria Bay Waterway, La.;
- Bayou Lafourche and Lafourche Jump Waterway, La.;
- Bayou Segnette Waterway, La.;
- Bayou Teche and Vermilion River, La.;
- Bayou Teche, La.;
- Calcasieu Lock, La.;
- Calcasieu River and Pass, DMMP, La.;
- Freshwater Bayou, La.;
- Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, La.;

- Houma Navigation Canal, La.;
- Inspection of Completed Works;
- Larose to Golden Meadow, La. (Hurricane Protection);
- Louisiana Coastal Area Comprehensive Plan, La.;
- Louisiana Coastal Area Ecosystem Restoration, La.;
- Mermentau River, La.;
- Mississippi River Outlets at Venice, La.;
- Mississippi River, Baton Rouge to the Gulf of Mexico, La.;
- MR&T Investigations, Construction & Maintenance;
- Project Condition Survey;
- Removal of Aquatic Growth, La.;
- Waterway from Empire to the Gulf, La.;
- Waterway from Intracoastal Waterway to Bayou Dulac, La.

The FY13 Civil Works budget press book is available online at <http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/Budget.aspx>, under the heading Program Budget: Press Books.



The Calcasieu Lock is one project proposed to receive funding in the FY2013 budget.



US Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District

Stakeholder Update
BUILDING STRONG®



Bonnet Carré Spillway

Corps to preserve historic cemeteries within the Bonnet Carré Spillway

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' New Orleans District hosted a public meeting on Wednesday, February 8th to provide community members with the opportunity to comment on the proposed long-term management plans of the Kenner and Kugler Cemeteries Archeological District, which is located within the Bonnet Carré Spillway project site in St. Charles Parish.

The 1975 operation of the Bonnet Carré Spillway inadvertently disinterred remains from the Kenner and Kugler cemeteries. The public meeting gave descendants and community members the opportunity to comment on the proposed plans to preserve and interpret these historic properties, as well as a proposed procedure to rebury the disturbed remains.

The Kenner and Kugler Cemeteries Archeological District is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The cemeteries were established prior to the Civil War as burial places for enslaved people of African

descent from surrounding plantations. Documentation shows that African-American Civil War veterans of the Union Army were also buried in the cemetery. The cemeteries were in use until 1928 when the Federal government purchased the land to build the spillway.

Long-term management of the cemeteries includes adding landscaping around the cemeteries to denote their location, placement of interpretive panels discussing the significance of the cemeteries and improved access to the site.

The Corps will continue to engage with descendants and interested stakeholders, and specific outreach strategies and tactics will be used to engage additional stakeholders. The reburial of remains is scheduled to take place at a ceremony in the fall of 2012.

Comments on the long-term management of the Bonnet Carré Spillway Historic Cemeteries may be sent to BonnetCarre@usace.army.mil.



Human remains were discovered at the Bonnet Carré site following the 1975 operation of the Spillway structure.



The Corps hosted a public meeting on February 8th to discuss long-term management of the historic cemeteries.

Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction

Seabrook project reaches major milestone

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reached a major Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) milestone last month with the installation of two vertical lift gates at the Seabrook Floodgate Complex.

The \$165 million Seabrook Floodgate Complex is a major HSDRRS project located on the north end of the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC; also known locally as the Industrial Canal) near Lake Pontchartrain. When complete, the complex will reduce risk from a storm surge that has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year, or a 100-year storm surge. Interim measures currently provide the 100-year level of risk reduction.

The Corps and its contractor, Alberici Constructors, installed the west verti-

cal lift gate on January 22nd and the east the following week on January 31st. Each gate is 50 feet wide, 34 feet tall and weighs 120 tons. The non-navigable lift gates are designed to maintain the existing water flow velocity through the IHNC channel.

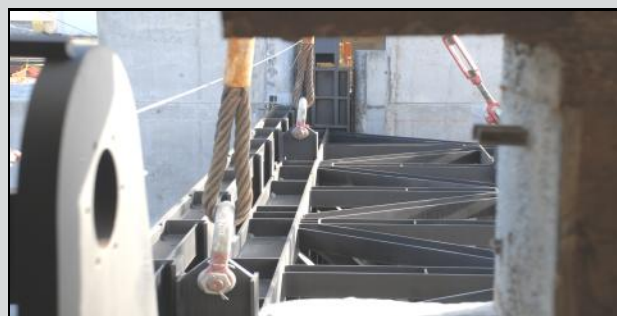
The complex also includes a 95-foot-wide navigable sector gate that will be positioned between the two lift gates. The sector gate leaves are currently being fabricated by Alberici Constructors and are on schedule to arrive at the construction site next month for installation in April.

Once the sector gate is installed, crews will begin to make preparations to reopen the waterway to navigation, which has been closed since the fall of 2010. Substantial completion is scheduled for late June 2012, at which point the waterway will be re-

opened to navigation.

In addition to the gates, the complex consists of floodwall tie-ins on both sides, a railroad gate on the west and a new ramp at Hayne Boulevard on the east side of the structure. These features are already substantially complete. The entire complex is being built to an elevation of 16 feet above sea level.

Once complete, the Seabrook Floodgate Complex will work in tandem with the 1.8-mile-long IHNC-Lake Borgne Surge Barrier to reduce risk for some of the areas hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina, including New Orleans East, metro New Orleans, Gentilly, the Ninth Ward and St. Bernard Parish.



Cranes lower the two vertical lift gates into place at the Seabrook Floodgate Complex.

